IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, ex rel.)
W. A. DREW EDMONDSON, in his capacity as)
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF)
OKLAHOMA and OKLAHOMA SECRETARY)
OF THE ENVIRONMENT C. MILES TOLBERT,)
in his capacity as the TRUSTEE FOR NATURAL)
RESOURCES FOR THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA,)
)
Plaintiff,)
vs.)) 05-CV-0329 GKF-SAJ
TYSON FOODS, INC., TYSON POULTRY, INC.,	<i>)</i>)
TYSON CHICKEN, INC., COBB-VANTRESS, INC.,	,)
AVIAGEN, INC., CAL-MAINE FOODS, INC.,)
CAL-MAINE FARMS, INC., CARGILL, INC.,)
CARGILL TURKEY PRODUCTION, LLC,)
GEORGE'S, INC., GEORGE'S FARMS, INC.,)
PETERSON FARMS, INC., SIMMONS FOODS, INC.,)
and WILLOW BROOK FOODS, INC.,)
Defendants.	<i>)</i>)

DEFENDANTS' STATUS REPORT REGARDING SCHEDULE FOR PROCEEDING ON PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

In accord with the Court's Order of November 30, 2007 [Dkt. No. 1384], counsel for Defendants and Plaintiffs participated in a telephonic conference to discuss the respective positions of the parties on the proposed schedule for proceeding with discovery, briefing and the hearing on Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Injunction. These discussions did not net an agreement on any aspect of the schedule; however, the discussions were fruitful in that the parties did gain additional insight into their opponents' views and positions. Particularly instructive to Defendants were the statements of Plaintiffs' counsel, which clarified the following points:

- Plaintiffs refuse to provide disclosures for their expert witnesses they intend to call at the hearing on the Preliminary Injunction in compliance with Fed. R. Civ.
 P. 26(a)(2), with the exception of providing *curricula vitae*, billing rates and lists of prior testimony.
- 2. Plaintiffs object to Defendant Tyson Foods' Rule 34 requests for the production of the experts' files and all materials considered by each expert, agreeing only to provide Defendants with the documents the experts "relied upon" in a rolling production over the course of the next 2 ½ weeks. Hence, Plaintiffs refuse to produce the entire files of their experts as contemplated under Fed. R. 26.
- 3. Although Plaintiffs will not state it plainly, their proposal for producing even limited documents about their expert case shows that the schedule Plaintiffs have proposed to this Court is unworkable. Plaintiffs' proposed schedule for producing the "reliance" materials of their experts extends past the date Plaintiffs assert the Defendants should file their Responses to the Motion for Preliminary Injunction.
- 4. Plaintiffs expect Defendants to file their Responses and supporting rebuttal expert affidavits: (1) before Plaintiffs have completed the production of their expert "reliance" materials; and (2) before Defendants are afforded the opportunity to evaluate the basis for Plaintiffs' experts' opinions and depose the experts.
- 5. Yet, under Plaintiffs' proposed schedule, Plaintiffs reserve for themselves the right and opportunity to take the depositions of the Defendants' experts prior to preparing and filing Plaintiffs' Reply in support of their Motion.

In the conference, Defendants' counsel expressed that they cannot agree to modify the schedule they proposed in their *Motion to Strike or Extend Response Deadline and for*

Establishment of Schedule for Resolving Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Injunction, [Dkt. 1380] without a firm commitment from Plaintiffs' counsel that they will make a full disclosure of their experts' materials and commit to a date certain for production. As explained above, the Plaintiffs' counsel rejected these requests and left Defendants' counsel with no greater understanding of what documents and information Plaintiffs have to support their Motion. As a result, Defendants have no greater understanding of what work will be required to rebut the Plaintiffs' Motion than they had the day it was filed.

However, the discussion at the meet-and-confer did clarify that the schedule for proceeding will necessarily have to account for Defendants' need for the Court to resolve the critical discovery issue as to the discoverability of Plaintiffs' experts' materials before the expert phase of the process can begin in earnest. Plaintiffs flatly refused to expedite their own Motion by producing the required expert materials until compelled to do so by the Court.

In the discussion, Plaintiffs' counsel rejected each of the Defendants' proposed schedule dates. Plaintiffs did agree to set the hearing on the Motion in mid-February 2008, which had the potential of moving the schedule a week or two at the most, given Plaintiffs' plan for the discovery phase to continue to January 15, 2008.

Defendants' proposed schedule is supported on its face by the timing of Plaintiffs' filing. Having presumably worked this case up before filing the Complaint in June of 2005, and having complete control over their case in the 28 months since, Plaintiffs filed their Motion for Preliminary Injunction in mid-November for the strategic purpose of creating a scheduling crisis that would work to Defendants' prejudice founded upon the conjecture that a human health crisis is looming in the spring of 2008. This claim flies in the face of fact that no public health official or environmental regulator in Oklahoma has stepped up to support that any such circumstance or emergency exists. Indeed, in their recent discovery responses, Plaintiffs have admitted that they have no evidence of a single person ever becoming ill or suffering adverse health effects from poultry litter. See Pls.' Mar. 16, 2007 Supplemental Resp. to Simmons Interrog. No. 5: "At the present time, the State has not confirmed the identity of any person who has suffered adverse health effects traceable to water contact in the Illinois River Watershed caused by land application of poultry waste."

The facts and issues related to the Plaintiffs' and Defendants' proposed schedules are discussed in detail in two documents filed on Wednesday, December 5, 2008. As explained more fully in the Cargill Defendants' Reply in Support of Defendants' Motion to Strike [Dkt. No. 1393] and Defendants' Reply on Their Motion to Strike or Extend Response Deadline and for Establishment of Schedule for Resolving Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Injunction [Dkt. No. 1394], the needs of justice will be served only if Defendants are afforded adequate time and due process to meet Plaintiffs' Motion, which seeks to radically alter the status quo and the lives of virtually thousands of Oklahomans and Arkansans. Accordingly, Defendants re-urge the schedule they proposed in their prior filing [Dkt. No. 1380] as follows:

Plaintiffs' Disclosure of Rule 26(a)(2)(B) Information: **Immediately**

Plaintiffs' production of Documents Requested in

Tyson Foods Rule 34 Requests: December 17, 2007

Depositions of Plaintiffs' Experts: Prior to March 1, 2008

Defendants' Response Briefs March 13, 2008

Defendants' Expert Reports (with Rule 26(a)(2)(B)

Information): March 13, 2008

Written Discovery and Depositions of Defendants' Experts: Prior to April 14, 2008

Plaintiffs' Reply Brief: April 28, 2008

Exchange of Hearing Witness Lists and Exhibits: May 7, 2008

Evidentiary Hearing (2 weeks) After May 14, 2008

In support of Defendants' scheduling proposal and for further discussion of the prejudice that Defendants would suffer under Plaintiffs' proposed schedule, Defendants refer the Court to and incorporate herein the following filings in the Court's record:

- Defendants' Response in Opposition to Motion for Hearing, [Dkt. No. 1379];
- Defendants' Motion to Strike or Extend Response Deadline and for Establishment
 of Schedule for Resolving Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Injunction, [Dkt. No.
 1380];
- The Cargill Defendants' Reply in Support of Defendants' Motion to Strike or Extend Response Deadline, [Dkt. No. 1393]; and
- Defendants' Reply on Their Motion to Strike or Extend Response Deadline and for Establishment of Schedule for Resolving Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Injunction, [Dkt. No. 1394].

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on the 6th day of December 2007, I electronically transmitted the attached document to the Clerk of Court using the ECF System for filing and transmittal of a Notice of Electronic Filing to the following ECF registrants:

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